

also protested against any thing of the kind in this State. He had better herose, lost his protest, & led bring to pass the very thing which he denounces. It will be for better for the present State Society to be profoundly still on the subject, or at least not to sanction the movements of Garrison & his party, if they do not wish to see a Slave organization here. The moment they do it, the fetters will be burst & the gag thrown away.

[I have been sorry to learn of late, that a young man, (Wm. Parker Pillsbury) who for a time last year was agent for the Anti-Slavery cause in your State, & labored, so far as I could learn, with much anxiety, is opposed to your Society. At first, he said, he favored it; but for certain reasons, which I have not yet learned, he is now strongly with Garrison & the Old Society; he has lately been appointed Agent for the Society in this State; & I suspect he will accept the appointment. They have also written to him from the Old Society in your State to become their agent at his own price; but I think, (& I am glad of it) that he will prefer to remain here. He is a young man of strong mind, determined energy & fearlessness, (almost recklessness) of consequence, thorough-going in his principles & opposition to Slavery; but I am sorry to say, rather inclined to fall in with the views of Garrison on other subjects. I hope, however, that in this State he will have little or nothing to say about extraneous matters, but stick close to Anti-Slavery.] If so, I think he will do more good here than he would in Massachusetts.

I have run over at a strange rate & almost beyond bounds till my sheet is about full, & have hardly touched upon the points of Bro. St. Clair's letter. But I must say a few words on some topics there suggested.

1. As it respects an Agent. The object of such an Agent, I suppose, would be, as Bro. St. Clair expresses it, "to get in the influence of the Old Abolitionist & of your new Society" into this State. This I should like for one. I suppose the business of the Agent would be, if I understand it, ^{to} circulate on the subject of Slavery & get subscribers for the Abolitionist, the organ of your Society. I should certainly wish for the

nation - who sacrificed ease & comfort & even exposed life for
the good of the oppressed - I honor, respect & revere Wm.
Lloyd Garrison; but, so far as he is a non-resistant, no-human-gov.
comment, conning-rights, man, he has been deceived by the
great enemy of ^{the} ~~man~~ ^{Garrison}; he has been shown of his strength &
glory; he has become like other men, who have come under the
influence of strange delusions & fatal errors. But enough of this.

[There is, I have reason to believe, a strong influence in favor
of Garrison in this State on the ground which I have mentioned; -
not that many (perhaps a few) adopt his extreme & pe-
culiar principles, but they bow down to the man. There is too, I think,
a want of correct & full information & clear understanding of the
true grounds of the reparation in your State, even among the
most sober & some influential abolitionists in this State, & if
they had a clear & full view of the subject, could be with you.
Still there are many, (especially deacons - & is this any dispraise-
ment?) who do understand the matter, & on whose co-operation
you may rely. As to Mr Rogers, Editor of the Her. Freedom, he
is doubtless fully with Garrison; & could, I believe, have come
out long ago against the ~~the~~ organization if he had to
have done it. If he had, & should he now do it to any extent, I think
the Paper would go down, & even as it is, there is a great deal
of dissatisfaction with it. It is not such a Paper as we want;
& unless there is some change for the better, it will not
be sustained. It is not such a Paper as I can recommend to my
people, or use much influence to get into circulation. I fear
as to where it will finally come out. I have not that confi-
rence in it which induces me to make any effort to enlarge
the sphere of influence at present. It is exceedingly desirable that
we should have a Paper in this State of the right stamp.
I do not know but that W. L. G. may advocate political action
in the Herald, or at least (Garrison like,) permit it to be
advocated; but I certainly think his mind, to say the least,
is not sufficiently established & firm - is far too easy and
vacillating, to produce much effort, or exert much influence, in
regard to that matter. Two or three weeks since I observed the
bid come out & protest against your Her. organization - &

to a dead stand in Massachusetts - & worse indeed, that the
friends of the slave were forgetting his cause & leaving him in
his agonies, tears & blood, while they themselves were contending with
each other about men extensive matters, which had no concern
with his deliverance; nor to tell them that the new society is
not in opposition to the old; that the latter is left free and
unmolested to do all it can in its own way for the slave -
while the former have only lashed away from the fetters & thrown
away the gags, which circumstances, (not to say their brethren)
had well nigh imposed upon them, in order that they also
might be equally free & unmolested in laboring in all
those ways, which they saw fit, for the victims of foul
oppression; nor has it appear of any avail to tell them, & prove
it out clear on the man, that, if all abolitionists should adopt
the principles of Garrison & act upon them, the cause of
the slave would be utterly hopeless, as well as the whole fabric
of human government & society in absolute jeopardy; that,
therefore, the cause of the slave ought not to be abandoned & re-
tarded on account of these principles or of the man who would
propagate them, however sincere as an abolitionist he may
have done for the oppressed; - all this seems to be of very
little consequence to those persons. One great (to them) over-
whelming idea fills their minds - in Garrison: Let him think,
believe, write, speak, do, that he will - no matter - he must be
supported & cheered on if the heavens fall. A man, if he
would wish to be considered a true blue abolitionist, must, not
only, not oppose Garrison, but he must not act for the
slave aside from his influence, or contrary to his wishes, or
without his approbation, or at least permission. If he does,
he must expect to meet sour looks, wrinkled fore-heads, strange
equivocations, & to be called a heretic, or seismatic. Now all this looks
to me like pretty considerable small business, especially for
abolitionists. I am utterly sick of it. In my opinion, the
cause itself is the main thing; & the means of very little
consequence. He an Abolitionist - as the man, who first sounded
the trumpet of alarm to arouse from death the numbers still quietly

Rev. R. A. Putnam.
Cincinnati N.H. Sept 28. 1839

Dear Brother Phelps, in who Rev. H. Clain,

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Several days since I received a letter from Rev. H. Clain on the subject of the new organization in your State, & extending the influence of your principles to this State. Rev. H. Clain wished me to write to you, or to him, on the subject. I had intended before I wrote you, to have consulted with some of my brethren here, so as to give more definite views; but, as I have an opportunity to send ^{to you} by private conveyance the beginning of next week, I wish not to lose it. Besides, I feel desirous of learning more fully from you & the friends of the cause in Mass. what precise course would be best. It is well, doubtless, for us both to understand each other thoroughly before we undertake to act. [You are not mistaken as to the fact that in this State many of the most substantial Abolitionists are strongly in favor of your society; but there are also many, who probably consider themselves as the most thoroughgoing & ultra sort, who will go for Garrison & against the new organization, at all events. They seem to think that Garrison is identified with Anti-Slavery, that is to say, Garrison & Anti-Slavery are with them almost interchangeable terms, more synonymous; & of course, ^{on any account} whoever is opposed to Garrison, is, & must be, opposed to Anti-Slavery, or at least cannot be a right down good Abolitionist. There is a strange sort of man-worship about this matter. There is the same kind of blindness, prejudice, inconclusive reasoning, which we see in the pro-slavery ranks against Abolition itself. I have been astonished to discover so much of it among Anti-Slavery men. It reminds me that they are indeed men, — & like other men, quite liable to err. It is of little or no use to tell these persons, that, previously to the new organization, Anti-Slavery had come